



**Testimony
Kathryn Dube
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Education Committee
February 15, 2013**

HB-6358, AN ACT UNLEASHING INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS

COST supports HB-6358 which provides schools with some relief from mandates by allowing the State Board of Education to waive mandates for certain high performing school districts. We support efforts to encourage innovation by eliminating state mandates and hope that, if adopted, the State Board of Education is flexible in approving waivers and encouraging innovation.

COST also urges the committee to incorporate recommendations from the state's Red Tape Removal Task Force, which will also help address the need to provide towns with relief from state mandates.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns. More information is available at www.ctcost.org

Connecticut Council of Small Towns
1245 Farmington Avenue, 101 West Hartford, CT 06107

Tel 860-676-0770 Fax 860-676-2662